

AN OFFERING OF PRAYER

PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS
PRIVATE AND PUBLIC

EDITED BY

RABBI MORRISON DAVID BIAL



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OUR TEMPLE'S PRAYER

May He who has caused His name to dwell
in this house
cause to dwell among you
love and brotherhood
and peace and friendship.

The Talmud — Berachot 12a

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PREFACE

Just as a man must ever find new sources of meaning and comprehension in the Torah, so in the Service of the Heart, which is prayer, must a man find new sources of love and devotion every day.

RABBI MENAHEM MENDEL OF KOSOV

The traditional prayerbook is the bastion of Jewish living. Through the centuries the Jew would turn to it many times every day at home and in the synagogue. To the Hasid, finding new sources of love and devotion in the Siddur was a labor of joy.

We who are not Hasidim still find in our prayerbooks the heart of our Service. Yet in our search for meaning in prayer we would turn from time to time to other books.

The purpose of *An Offering of Prayer* is to supplement the prayerbooks, to provide prayers on subjects that are not dealt with in traditional material or that reflect more exactly the temper of our day.

The great majority of the prayers included here are of Jewish origin, but I have included some work of non-Jews that seemed in consonance with the spirit of our religion.

To all of those who have allowed me to use their prayers, to all those who aided in the collecting and arranging of this material, or who assisted in its publication, I offer my gratitude.

Especially do I thank the members of Temple Sinai of Summit, whose Tenth Anniversary was the occasion of this publication. It has been a privilege for me to accompany them over the years to this milestone in our religious journey. To them *An Offering of Prayer* is dedicated.

MORRISON DAVID BIAL

PRIVATE PRAYER
AND MEDITATION

Let your prayer be a window to heaven.

BAAL SHEM TOV

A MEDITATION ON PRAYER

Prayer is aspiration. The self-satisfied disregard it. They who reach for higher things find it a necessity.

Prayer is a discipline. They who seek meaning and purpose in life discover it a wise teacher.

Prayer is an art. We perfect it only through practice.

Never are we more truly and nobly ourselves than when we pray. Never are we more honestly aware of our shortcomings than when we are in God's presence. Never do we aspire more earnestly toward self-improvement and human betterment than when we worship Him.

Gradually, the interval between prayer and deed diminishes until, at last, all life becomes a sanctuary.

"I rejoiced when they said unto me:
'Let us go unto the house of the Lord.' "

Psalms 122:1

RABBI ALVIN I. FINE

In Memory of MAX BROUNSTEIN

MAN IS HERE FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS

Strange is our situation here upon earth.
Each of us comes for a short visit, not knowing why, yet
sometimes seeming
to divine a purpose.
From the standpoint of daily life, however,
there is one thing we do know:
That Man Is Here for the Sake of Other Men . . .
Above all, for those upon whose smile and
well-being our own happiness depends, and also
for the countless unknown souls with whose
fate we are connected by a bond of sympathy.
Many times a day I realize how much my own
outer and inner life is built upon the labors
of my fellow men, both living and dead, and
how earnestly I must exert myself in order to
give in return as much as I have received
and am still receiving.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

Sponsored by DR. AND MRS. SIDNEY BEINFEST

PRAYER
WHERE CAN WE FIND GOD?

God, where shall I find Thee,
Whose glory fills the universe?

Behold, I find Thee
Wherever the ploughman guides his furrow through the
yielding soil,
Where a lonely shepherd tends his sheep in mountain
fastness,
Or in the feverish marts of the city
Where man frantically works to live;
Wherever man earns his bread by the sweat of his brow.
Even in the company of the friendless, the afflicted,
There God abides, in sun or in shower.

Behold, I find Thee
Wherever the mind is free to follow its turnings,
Wherever words arise from the depth of truth,
Where men struggle for freedom and right,
Where the scientist toils to bare the secrets of nature,
Where poet and musician and artist strive to capture
 beauty for our sake and for its own sake;
Where men and women work for the good of their fellow,
 yea, more even than for their own good;
Wherever glorious deeds are done.

Behold, I find Thee
In the merry shouts of children at play;
In the lullaby a mother sings, rocking her baby to sleep,
In the sleep that falls on a baby's eyes,
In the smile that plays on his sleeping lips;
In the mind of a child as he grows and becomes aware of
 the wonders of a world beyond his imagination,

As his body and spirit respond to sun and light, to food
and drink, to the robing warmth of love.

Behold, Lord, I find Thee everywhere:
In birth that keeps renewing our generations,
In death that silently closes the door of life
And all that is therein;
There, O Lord, I find Thee.

RABINDRANATH TAGORE
freely adapted

Sponsored by BENJAMIN BRAGAR

MEDITATION

. . . God, Almighty Father of us all, we know and we affirm
the prime conviction of our hearts and minds,
That however harsh the burden,
And however sad the day,
Though the heath may seem a lonely place,
Or the valley appear as if it were the depths of sad despair,
Though the hills of our accomplishments may look as if
they are about to crumble,
The truth about Thy creation is — that life is not a godless
episode of undirected chance,
And the universe is not a maze of meaningless coincidence,
For all experience is a drama of striving and of will,
Of beauty and attachments,
Wherein Thou has provided the bounty of Thy love, for all
who would choose to partake of it.

In our loneliness,
In our despair — and
In our accomplishments,
We never are, and never were, alone.
For in Thy beneficent wisdom, Thou art
always with us,
Lending purpose and direction to our lives.

And thus, although we cannot always understand the purpose of our pains, or the reason for our suffering and fears, we know that when awakened to Thy fellowship, we can live our lives with a courageous heart.

When we focus our attention on Thy
divine companionship, we are not alone.
When we understand more of the meaning
of Thy godliness which is always with

us, we acquire a talent to handle our disappointments with an intelligent will. When we sense Thy presence, we gain the capacity to live with our accomplishments in confidence and dignity. Because Thou art always with us, O, Our Lord, our thanks go out to Thee.

S. MICHAEL GELBER

MEDITATION

... We can feel Thy fellowship at its best, O Lord, when we try to reach Thy presence,
When we strive to sense Thy sacredness.
When we seek the bond which binds us to Thee.

Thou hast given us this life,
Thou hast provided us with a universe of challenge — and A world of work, wherein we find fulfillment for our span of years;
Thou hast brought us into a civilizing faith, enriched by a tradition of revelation and of wisdom,
Thou hast bestowed upon us a legacy of natural beauty and of man-made art.
Can we not look upon all these treasures of the spirit and of experience, as though they are Thy hand, O God, offered to us as the opening expression of companionship?

For them all, in their magnificence and comfort, we are thankful.

And to indicate the depths of our gratefulness for the bounty of Thy fellowship, we will walk with Thee, as Elijah did, and we will offer life the best that we have within us.

And by so doing, we will strive to
fulfill the prophecy of Thy servant
Jeremiah, who taught us in Thy name,
"And ye shall seek Me, and find Me
when ye shall search for Me,
with all your heart."

O God, our Father, Lord and Maker, we thank Thee for
Thy fellowship.

S. MICHAEL GELBER

Sponsored by MR. AND MRS. STUART F. COOPER

FOR KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

Almighty God, Thou hast sent us into a world of mystery. Yet, hast Thou created in us a yearning for knowledge, a burning desire to know finalities.

Thou hast taught us to confess our own limits that we rely not upon our own understanding and say, "wisdom is ours."

Realizing our own shortcomings, we incline our minds to the teachings of others. Conscious that a single life's experience is but naught amidst the infinities of Thy mysterious world, we are respectful of the views of our fellow men who like ourselves grope for truth.

Teach us, therefore, O Lord, to keep our minds ever free from the clouds of haughtiness and self-deception, that we may not deny ourselves the opinions and teachings of others.

We are led by Thy mysteries to seek after Thee, O Eternal. All things that stretch beyond our imagination tell us that Thou, O Mystery of All Mysteries, art the end and the beginning of them all. In Thee we find the source of life and being, and from Thee cometh the glory and the beauty of the wondrous things about us. Though we cannot understand Thy being, we seek to feel Thy presence, to be drawn into Thy holiness. Sanctify us, O God, consecrate our lives to Thee that in Thy light we may see light, in Thy life we may gain life everlasting, Amen.

RABBI LOUIS M. EPSTEIN

Sponsored by MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH LIEBERMAN AND DAUGHTER

WITH ALL MY STRENGTH AND SPIRIT

With all my strength and spirit, I adore
You, Truth, aloud and in my secret core.
I hoard your Name. And who can rob this spoil?
He is my love. What other could I crave?
He is my light. How could my lamp need oil?
How can I falter, leaned on such a stave?
They mock — and do not know that mockery,
Because I praise your Name, is praise to me.
Source of my life, your praise shall sound as long
As I can breathe my fervor into song.

JUDAH HALEVI
translated by Olga Marx

In Memory of HARRY GOODWIN AND EDE I. WALDEN

A MEDITATION ON MAN AND THE WORLD

Like blind men we go about the earth, seeing nothing. Wonders without number surround us everywhere, but we hurry by, our eyes open, but we see nothing. We yearn for the distant skies, and long for the far-off seas, while infinite wisdom and inestimable mystery are strewn about our every step; but we rush on unawares. If we only stopped awhile to contemplate the world about us, we would be ashamed of our ignorance. For, behold! we thought we had seen and learned much, but in truth we saw nothing. We thought we were wise, but in truth, devoid of knowledge: we understand nothing. For, lo! our eyes have opened to contemplate, where we never learned to see, the greatness of God and the inexplicable mystery of life.

JACOB KAHAN

In Memory of ERWIN E. RACHLIN

I MUST PRAISE GOD

And what words can truly express our praise of the works of Providence? If we had understanding, ought we not incessantly sing hymns to the Deity to rehearse His benefits? Ought we not as we dig or we plow or eat, sing a hymn to God? Great is God who has given us the strength and skill and tools to till the ground! Who has given us limbs and power and organs! And that which should be the subject of the greatest and most divine hymn: that He has granted us the faculty of apprehending his gifts!

What else then can I, a lame old man, do but chant the praise of God? If I were a nightingale, I would sing as a nightingale; if a swan, as a swan. But as I am a rational creature, I must praise God. This is my task and I will do it. Nor will I leave this duty so long as I live; and I exhort you all to join in this same song.

EPICTETUS
1st Century

PRAYER — ON SEEKING FOR GOD

Our Father, sometimes it seems to us as though Thou art far away, far beyond the reaching of our mind or heart, as though neither prayer nor wishing could ever reach Thee even faintly. Yet we know that Thou art ever with us, and it is only our preoccupations with ourselves that hobble and diminish us and keep us distant from Thee.

Hast Thou not said: "If with all your hearts you truly seek Me, ye shall ever surely find Me." (*Jeremiah 29:13*) Indeed, Thou art more willing to be found than we are to seek.

Help us to become aware that Thy spirit and inspiration are always near. Help us to realize that Thou desirest the good of man and not his evil, that every soul is to Thee a wondrous creation, everyone of us a dear, beloved child of Thine; that if we will only learn to turn to Thee, we will find answer in Thy zeal and mighty acts.

Like children striving to learn their lessons to be readied for mature life, so may we strive to learn to know Thee and Thy nearness so that we may make ourselves capable of the spiritual life of Thy world.

RABBI MORRISON DAVID BIAL

Sponsored by the

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF TEMPLE SINAI

May the will come from Thee,
to annul wars and the shedding of blood from the universe,
and to extend a peace, great and wondrous, in the universe.
Nor again shall one people raise the sword against another
and they shall learn war no more.

But let all the residents of earth recognize and know the
innermost truth:

that we are not come into this world for quarrel and
division,

nor for hate and jealousy, contrariness and bloodshed;
but we are come into this world

Thee to recognize and know,
be Thou blessed forever.

And let Thy glory fill all our wits and minds, knowledge
and hearts;

and may I be a chariot for the presence of Thy divinity.

May I not again depart from the Sanctity as much as a
hairsbreadth.

May I not think one extraneous thought.

But may I ever cling to Thee and to Thy sacred Torah,
until I be worthy to introduce others into the knowledge of
the truth of Thy divinity.

To announce to the sons of man Thy power,
and the honor of the glory of Thy kingdom.

RABBI NAHMAN OF BRATZLAV
translated by Jacob Sloan

Sponsored by MULTI-AMP ELECTRONIC CORP.

FROM A YEMENITE PRAYER BOOK

Thou art the Master and I the servant.

Who should have mercy on the servant if not the Master?

Thou art the Creator and I the creature.

Who should have mercy on the creature if not the Creator?

Thou art the Strong and I the weak.

Who should have mercy on the weak if not the Strong?

Thou art the Judge and I the judged.

Who should have mercy on the judged if not the Judge?

Thou art God and I man.

Who should have mercy on man if not God?

Thou art the Sovereign and I the subject.

Who should have mercy on the subject if not the Sovereign?

Thou art the innocent and I the guilty.

Who should have mercy on the guilty if not the Innocent?

Thou art the Living and I the dying.

Who should have mercy on the dying if not the Living?

Thou art the Pure and I the impure.

Who should have mercy on the impure if not the Pure?

Thou art the Potter and I the clay.

Who should have mercy on the clay if not the Potter?

Thou art the Mighty and I nothing.

Who should have mercy on the nothing if not the Mighty?

Thou art the Flame and I the straw.

Who should have mercy on the straw if not the Flame?

Thou art the Ruler and I the ruled.

Who should have mercy on the ruled if not the Ruler?

Thou art the Faithful and I the faithless.

Who should have mercy on the faithless if not the Faithful?

Thou art the Sustainer and I the one who falls.

Who should have mercy on the fallen if not the One who sustains?

Thou art the Rich and I the poor.

Who should have mercy on the poor if not the Rich?

Thou art the Deliverer and I the bound.

Who should have mercy on the bound if not the Deliverer?

Thou art the Just and I the wicked.

Who should have mercy on the wicked if not the Just?

Thou art the Holy and I the profane.

Who should have mercy on the profane if not the Holy?

Thou art the Shepherd and I the sheep.

Who should have mercy on the sheep if not the Shepherd?

Thou art the Listener and I the one who pleads.

Who should have mercy on the pleading if not the One who listens?

Thou art the Beginning and I the end.

Who should have mercy on the end if not the Beginning?

Translated by
RABBI HERBERT WEINER

Sponsored by MR. AND MRS. HARRY A. COOPER

A PRAYER TO THE GREAT SPIRIT

Great Spirit, you have been always, and before you no one has been. There is no other one to pray to but you. You yourself, everything has been made by you. The star nations all over the universe you have finished. The four quarters of the earth you have finished. The day, and in that day, everything you have finished. Great Spirit, lean close to the earth that you may hear the voice I send. You towards where the sun goes down, behold me! You where the sun shines continually, whence come the daybreak star and the day, behold me! You where the summer lives, behold me! You in the depths of the heavens, an eagle of power, behold!

Hear me, four quarters of the world — a relative I am! Give me the strength to walk the soft earth, a relative to all that is! Give me the eyes to see and the strength to understand, that I may be like you. With your power only can I face the winds.

Great Spirit, Great Spirit, all over the earth the faces of living things are all alike. With tenderness have these come up out of the ground. Look upon these faces of children without number and those with children in their arms, that they may face the winds and walk the good road to the day of quiet.

This is my prayer; hear me! The voice I have sent is weak, yet with earnestness I have sent it. Hear me!

BLACK ELK
American Indian

PETITION FOR PRAYER

O Lord, our fathers spoke in Thy name: Open thy heart to Me as much as the thickness of a needle, and I will open it for thee as wide as a portal.

Shir haShirim Rabbah 5:3

Lord, help us to prepare our minds that we may learn how to pray to Thee. Petition and praise spoken without the warmth of the heart are cold and uncaring, words offered as a vain sacrifice.

We pray that we may learn that Thou art there, nay, Thou art here, just at our soul's reaching, if only we call on Thee in earnest. Doubting is born of our own lack of faith in ourselves, the belief that we are so little that nothing can respond to us.

In the midst of our humility; yet we must know that we are Thy children, and so possess a treasure worthy of Thee: our soul.

O Lord, teach us to know that as we reach towards Thee, so dost Thou bend towards us; that no prayer truly uttered really goes unanswered, even though we may not always comprehend the answer. May we grow in that inner wisdom which will enable us to turn our whole selves in urgent call. Then will the words of Thy prophet be fulfilled in us:

"And it shall come to pass that before they call,
I will answer, and while they are yet speaking,
I will hear."

Isaiah 65:24

RABBI MORRISON DAVID BIAL

In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. BENJAMIN GOLDMAN

SABBATH EVE
(In the Home)

Our God and God of Our Fathers: In devotional prayer and joyous song we again welcome Thy messenger, the Sabbath Queen, as it arrives softly and imperceptibly in the chariot of time.

How deeply grateful are Thy children for the quickening message of the Sabbath. Into our turbulent prosaic lives it injects the poetry of rest and calm. To our bruised spirit the Sabbath brings a soothing balm. Its penetrating light and warmth melt the walls isolating our dark, cold selves, reigniting the divine spark within us.

O Heavenly Father, help us to realize the need of Thy Sabbath in our lives. May we entertain our weekly visitor in respect and devotion. Attune our ears to Thy inspiration transmitted through the message of Sabbath, so that we may learn more of Thy will, thus drawing ever closer to Thee.

AMEN.

RABBI ELY E. PILCHIK

In Memory of EUDICE A. SHAPIRO

A SONG FOR THE SABBATH

Lord, I yearn for the delight of the Sabbath
That is truth and unity for Thy chosen ones.
That draws out delight for Thy worshipers,
For the people who seek Thy will.
Sanctify them in the holiness of the Sabbath,
That unites them in Thy Torah,
Open for them delight and acceptance,
To open the gates of Thy will.

Thou who were and are, preserve
The guardians of the Sabbath of Thy holiness.
“As a hart pants for the pool of waters,”
Their souls yearn for the delight of the Sabbath,
That unites them in the name of Thy holiness.
Hide not in the shadows of the departing Sabbath,
Nor be shut from them the six weekly days;
They who are hallowed by the Sabbath of Thy holiness,
And hallow their hearts in truth and faith to Thy service.

May Thy mercies encircle Thy dispensations,
May Thy mercies encircle Thy holy people,
To give drink to Thy thirsting Hasidim from the waters
that flow from Eden,
To adorn Israel with the glory of praising
Thee on the Sabbath day through Thy Sabbath of
holiness
All the days of the week,
To endow them with the heritage of Jacob, Thy chosen one.

The Sabbath delights the soul; the seventh day is our spiritual pleasure.

Holy Sabbath! my soul faints at Thy love!
Holy Sabbath! the souls of Israel "take refuge in the shadow of Thy wings,
They feast on the abundance of Thy house."

RABBI AHARON HAGODOL OF KARLIN
translated by M.D.B.

APOLOGIA ON THE SABBATH

O Lord, despite our faults and our shortsightedness, accept us in Thy mercy in that we would try to overcome our limitations.

Our sins are sins of omission, not of commission. We have failed to do good rather than wrought evil. We have been lazy where we should have been energetic; skeptical where our lives have cried for faith; petty where we should have been magnanimous; too complacent, satisfied with ourselves as we are.

Prod us, O Lord, prick us with the goad of discontent, until we realize how we have fallen short. Teach us, O Lord, to appreciate the grandeur and majesty of our hallowed religion, and yet to know its humanity. Ennoble us so that we may experience the meaning of the Sabbath, a day of peace, of prayer, a day of spiritual and physical regeneration. It is a day of joy, deep human joy.

May we learn to set aside a portion of our lives to Thee, to lift ourselves from our own spheres into Thine, to attain to K'dusha, to holiness. Then indeed will we attain to the merit of the delight of the Sabbath, and grow in wisdom, in helpfulness, in kindness and in love.

RABBI MORRISON DAVID BIAL

Sponsored by the WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF TEMPLE SINAI

A MOTHER'S PRAYER
AT THE CLOSE OF THE SABBATH

O God of Abraham, of Isaac and Jacob,
Protect Your dear people Israel in Your love.

As the Sabbath holiness nears its end,
A week of goodness and happiness send,
With health, with life and grace,
With loving-kindness and with faith;
With purity of heart and mind,
And strength of limb, of every kind.
Amen, selah.

Early do I rise:
The Holy One sits in the seventh heaven,
Loving God, have mercy on me,
My husband and my little ones.
Open to me a path, a friendly way,
Grant me sustenance by Your hand,
Food and drink, and be my stay
Today and every day.

From the Yiddish
translated by M.D.B.

In Memory of MINNIE BRAGAR

MEETING WITH GOD

Whatever you do or propose to do, do not forget that you stand before God; before Him whose glory fills the earth, whose majesty rules over you. Study the holy Torah as often as possible, always with the view of ordering your life in accordance with its teachings. When you close the book, ask yourself whether there was anything in what you read that you should carry out. Morning and evening examine your actions and your intentions. So will your whole life be pure by means of repentance.

During prayer remove every thought which is alien to communion with God. Weigh your words before you utter them. This will prepare your soul to meet God. In general I counsel you to be considerate and careful in speech, nor be hasty and thoughtless at your meals. Shun the company of the proud, and walk in humility with God. Then will you pursue the right path, and your prayers will be pure and acceptable in heaven.

MOSES OF EVREUS
13th Century

*In Honor of
MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH ZEIGNER's Fifty-Fifth Anniversary*

A MEDITATION ON CHARITY

"Great is charity," said our fathers. "It uplifts the soul."
Eliyahu Zuta 1

"He who does charity and justice is as if he had filled the whole world with kindness." *Sukkah 49b*

"He that feeds the hungry feeds himself too, for charity blesses him that gives even more than him that takes."

Ruth Rabbah 19

Philanthropy, the love of man, is the way of charity. It is to take our own good fortune and spread it among our brethren. It is to show that humanity is our measure in our deeds, and as such is God's way.

None is more responsible for my brother than I am. None can relieve me from my responsibility but myself.

Even a poor man who lives on charity should practice charity.
Gitten 7b

Said Rabbi Eleazer: "He who gives charity in secret is as great as Moses." *Baba Batra 8*

When a beggar stands at your door, the Holy One stands at his right hand. *Vayikra Rabba 34:9*

Greater is he who practices charity than all the sacrifices.
Sukkah 49b

In Honor of RABBI MORRISON DAVID BIAL

A PRAYER OF THANKS

O God who has given us the earth in its beauty to be our home, help us to rejoice and be glad in it. Let us come to each new day with freshness of mind, and may our sense of wonder never forsake us.

Help us also to be grateful for human fellowship and for the joy of discovering common aspirations and of sharing in combined achievements. For the power and outreach of the mind, lighting the dark places of fear and ignorance; for imagination and insight and the impulse to discover and create; for courage strengthened by defeat, spurring us on to greater efforts; for the resolve to take our part in the world, increasing the common store of good: for these and all the powers that Thou hast given us, help us now to be newly thankful.

And give us to know, O God, that even as the earth about us is our home, so also beauty, truth and goodness are the home of our spirits. Help us to dwell at peace with them. Lead us away from all that would debase us and deplete us of life's zest. Cleanse Thou our hearts, O God, and lift us up.

REV. A. POWELL DAVIES

In Memory of MAX HELLER

TEACH US TO BE THANKFUL

Almighty God, we pray Thee this day for the gift of a tranquil spirit, a spirit of contentment with our daily portion from Thine hand. When Thou openest Thine hand and satisfiest every living thing with favor, ours is the glory of praising Thy name. As Thou sendest forth Thy sun to shed its light on Thy handiwork, so causest Thou the blessings of the field and the orchard to yield daily sustenance to all Thy children.

If our spirit, therefore, lacks tranquility and our soul is in want of contentment, it is because we fail to thank Thee, O Lord, for Thy goodness to us, and Thy fatherly care of us, day by day, because we spend our peace of the day in worry of the morrow. Oh, that we would sense in our life's experience the steadiness and the certainty of Thy providence! Oh, that we were not ever building sky-high defenses against the rover that might come, and thus end our years in the fear of a shadow.

Teach us, O Lord, to thank Thee day by day, and thus continually bless Thy name for ever and ever.

RABBI LOUIS M. EPSTEIN

Sponsored by BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF TEMPLE SINAI

FROM THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS,
THE PSALMS OF THANKSGIVING

I thank Thee, O Lord, because Thou hast done wondrously
with dust;
with a thing formed of clay Thou hast done powerfully.
Confessing, confessing, what am I?
For Thou hast given me knowledge of Thy true counsel
and hast made me wise by Thy wondrous works. . . .
Continually I will bless Thy name
and tell of Thy glory among the sons of man;
in the abundance of Thy goodness my soul shall delight;
for I know that what Thou sayest is truth,
and in Thy hand is righteousness;
in Thy purpose is all knowledge,
and in Thy strength all power;
and all glory is with Thee.

(MILLAR BURROUGHS)

In Memory of

ANNIE AND HENRY N. WEISS AND
PAULINE AND WILLIAM FOX

PRAYER BEFORE A JOURNEY

May it be Thy will, O Lord, my God,
that Thou walk with me in peace,
and guide my steps in peace,
and support me in peace.
Save me from the hand of every foe,
and all who lurk in my way.

Mayest Thou send a blessing
on the works of my hands,
and grant me grace, favor and compassion
in Thine eyes,
and in the eyes of all who see me.

Talmud, Berachot 29b

Sponsored by the J. J. KANNER COMPANY

PRAYER FOR ONE FAR FROM HOME

I am not alone, O God, for Thou art with me everywhere. Therefore I can be strong wherever I may be.

And wherever I may be I cannot be far from the beauty and the inspiration of life. For Thou has given me not only a body but also a soul. That spirit which Thou has breathed into me holds ever close within me the conscience and the striving after beautiful living, which gave so much light and loveliness to my childhood and youth. I did not stand alone, for there were my loved ones at home, my teachers, my religious leaders, my true friends, and so many in the past who helped me toward clean, upstanding, and fine living. The blessing of their influence is still with me, and it lives on in my soul to uphold my own striving for betterment, for moral strength and for courage to do the right.

So I pray Thee, O God, help me to hold ever in my mind, in my heart, and in my soul the thought of all those influences for better living, the sense of nearness to my loved ones, and the feeling that Thou are with me everywhere at all times. With Thee upholding me I cannot be afraid. With me hearkening to Thy voice that speaks within my soul I cannot fail.

AMEN.

RABBI DAVID DE SOLA POOL

AN EARLY GREEK PRAYER

May I be no man's enemy, and may I be the friend of that which is eternal and abides.

May I never quarrel with those nearest me; and if I do, may I be reconciled quickly.

May I never devise evil against any man; if any devise evil against me, may I escape uninjured and without the need of hurting him.

May I love, seek, and attain only that which is good.

May I wish for all men's happiness and envy none.

May I never rejoice in the ill-fortune of one who has wronged me.

When I have done or said what is wrong, may I never wait for the rebuke of others, but always rebuke myself until I make amends. May I win no victory that harms me or my opponent.

May I reconcile friends who are wroth with one another.

May I, to the extent of my power, give all needful help to my friends and to all who are in want. May I never fail a friend in danger.

When visiting those in grief may I be able by gentle and healing words to soften their pain.

May I respect myself.

May I always keep tame that which rages within me.

May I accustom myself to be gentle, and never be angry with people because of circumstances.

May I never discuss who is wicked and what wicked things he has done, but know good men and follow in their footsteps.

Attributed to

EUSEBIUS, BISHOP OF CAESAREA

(260?-340?)

ON PRAYER

To pray is the will and goal of all the cosmos.

All being craves the Source of its life.

Every plant and bush; every grain of sand and clod of earth; everything in which life is revealed or hidden; the smallest and the largest in creation — all longs, yearns and reaches out towards its upper Source . . . toward that fullness from which delight flows . . . the Life, the Holy, the Pure and the Mighty.

And at every moment, all these cravings are gathered up and absorbed by man, who is himself lifted up by the longing for the holiness within him.

It is during prayer that all these pent-up desires and yearnings are released . . . and waves of light burst forth, rising freely in their strength and lifting the intonations of the holy word up to the very heights of God.

So man, through his prayer, unites in himself all being, and lifts all creation up to the Fountainhead of blessing and life, to God Himself.

RAV ABRAHAM ISAAC KUK

In Memory of J. JEROME KAPLON

THE OPEN DOOR OF THE HEART

I am here, O Lord, with a bruised conscience for I have dared to pray for help and relief before I tried to rescue myself from my predicament.

How is it that I dare to offer prayers to Thee to open Thy heart to me, when I have closed my heart to others? Why do I dare to ask Thee to topple the walls that stand between Thee and me, when I myself erected most of the walls?

Inspire me, I pray, O Lord, to turn so that I may offer to those about me the generosity of spirit and warmth of sentiment I would ask for myself. If only I who yearn for kinship, for fraternity, for understanding, for respect, for love, would learn to give these outpourings of the heart to my fellows! Understanding for those whose way is hard in the world; kinship with all who are Thy children, whether my brethren of the household of Israel or any fellow human being; respect for even the slightest of Thy creatures; and love for Thy Godhead which flickers and flames within us all.

Teach me, O Lord, to come closer to my neighbor; to reach out in welcome; to open my heart and my mind to all about me. May I bring comfort to those in need, brotherhood to the lonely and kindness to all men. Not to complain, but to help; not to retreat into myself, but to welcome others; not to pray in word alone, but to act my prayer in my life.

This is my prayer to Thee, O Lord; that I become a being worthy of prayer. Then will my life be a hymn of worship unto Thee.

AMEN.

RABBI MORRISON DAVID BIAL

Sponsored by BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF TEMPLE SINAI

A PRAYER FOR THE DESPONDENT

O Lord:

Life is not always easy; the path often seems obscured; worry and doubt seem only too real. Where can I find strength and courage but in the calm resolve that comes from seeking Thee!

Be a refuge to me from the harsh demands of the world, from the strife and vexations that weigh on me. Deliver me, O Lord, from the oppression of selfish thoughts and moods. Help me to escape from vain imaginings and delusions which have too much power over me. Let me learn to quiet my soul that I may truly find rest in Thee.

May I retreat only so that I may better move forward again. May I who have tasted bitter dregs use my new awareness of life to learn humility and thankfulness.

I pray to be given the strength of spirit to accept that which cannot be altered, and go forth to do my utmost to develop, to help in that which can become a ground for achievement.

Then will I have learned to turn defeat into victory. Then with the help of Thy guiding spirit will I be able to express the best that is within me, in light and in hope.

AMEN.

RABBI MORRISON DAVID BIAL

A PRAYER FOR THE ILL

O Lord, our God and God of our Fathers:

We call upon Thee in our distress, when one who is very dear to us is gravely stricken.

We lift our hearts in prayer to Thee who art the source of life and strength. May our prayers carry to Thee the greatness of our sorrows and the anguish that fills our hearts.

We ask for Thy light in our darkness, for Thy love to fortify our love. We ask for Thy mercy and compassion that we may help each other bear up under this burden.

Thou art our Judge, the divine Source of all wisdom. Give us understanding of what we must do to sustain each other, to make of this hour a going forward. Help us to drive out desperation and invite true hope and courage, for Thou art ever near unto us. May it be Thy will to reunite us in health and in love so that we may take up our lives together in ways pleasing to Thee.

AMEN.

RABBI MORRISON DAVID BIAL

PUBLIC PRAYER

The universe throbs with Thy pauseless praise.

“The Lord Is King”

ELIEZER KALIR

8th Century

BENEDICTION AT THE INAUGURATION OF
PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

We turn to Thee, O God, in deepest gratitude on this exalting day of reaffirmation of our nation's ideals and unity, and of personal avowal of sacred obligation by our President, in Thy name.

Mayest Thou, O God, to Whom alone belong the dominion and the power, be his stay and support in the fulfillment of his awesome trust, to ensure the unfettered implementation of the letter and spirit of our Constitution for all the inhabitants of our land, to provide equal opportunities of learning and labor and well-being for all our citizens and glad shelter to those who seek refuge with us from tyranny, to safeguard the physical and moral integrity of our beloved Commonwealth, founded on faith in Thee.

O Thou, Who are the Source of all life, quicken his heart always with the awareness of Thy presence, and especially in the lonely moments of fateful decisions which may be his to make for us and our world.

Guard and guide him in Thy loving-kindness, that through his leadership hunger may be stilled, hurts healed, hope sustained, the weak and the worn assisted, human dignity and decency upheld, the blight of war and the spectre of annihilation banished, and peace in freedom prevail among all Thy children everywhere, with none to make them afraid.

In profound humility, O God, we pray that Thy blessing may rest upon our President and all associated with him in our government, which we the people have set in authority, upon everyone and everything dear and precious

to him and us, as we repeat the ever new words of the ancient prayer in Sacred Writ:

May the Lord bless thee and keep thee,

May the Lord cause His countenance to shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee,

May the Lord lift up His countenance unto thee and grant thee peace.

RABBI NELSON GLUECK

*Sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. JACK VICTORINE
Sponsored by Dr. and Mrs. ABRAHAM BLOOMSTEIN*

SYNAGOGUE CONSECRATION PRAYER

Almighty Father, we pray to Thee with faith in Thy directing power and in Thy eternal love. We humbly ask Thee to accept this Synagogue as an offering unto Thee. Let Thy blessing be upon it. Grant that those who come to worship here may come in a spirit of humility and filled with love for a living Judaism. May they find here consolation in times of trouble, courage and hope when in doubt or difficulty, and when in joy, the consecration of their happiness.

Do Thou, our God, reveal to those who pray in this place the way to righteousness, justice, truth and peace. Let the men and women, young people and children who gather here in sincerity in ever greater numbers, receive Thine instruction through study and service, and strive to share Thy divine light with all seekers.

Place Thy blessing, we pray Thee, on the leader of this Synagogue, and on all who come to work with him for the welfare of its members and for all men.

Quicken the faith of all who worship in this House of Prayer, that they may know full well that Thy presence is in their midst now and for evermore.

AMEN.

THE HON. LILY H. MONTAGU

*In Honor of HENRIETTA SIEGEL
In Memory of HINDA AND NATHAN KAPLAN*

INSTALLATION PRAYER

O Lord, Our God, we thank Thee for Thy countless mercies.
For the incomparable gift of love that comes to us from
family and friends and from these Thy children to
whose service we dedicate our lives.

We need Thy help, O God, for without Thee the burden
is heavy, and the tablets of Thy commandments weigh
us down.

But when Thy writing is clear and Thy spirit upon it, the
burden is lifted, the tablets take on wings and the com-
mandments carry us on high.

Help us, O God, to follow in the way which we have been
taught, which our parents gave us as their greatest gift.

Teach us, O Lord, to follow the path of Joseph, our fore-
father, always to say like him: "I seek my brethren."

We need Thy help to tread the way before us with surety
and confidence, the way hewn out by great leaders who
stood here and who served Thy people.

Help us to be a true Rabbi — a teacher to old and
young, to be a friend and counsellor to this Thy holy
congregation.

Help us to speak where silence is cheap; help us to be ever
sensitive to the heartbeat of our fellow man;

Help us to preserve our balance in the swirl of human
enterprise; help us to teach Thy Torah, thereby to
magnify Thee day and night, until the end of our days.

AMEN.

RABBI W. GUNTHER PLAUT

TEMPLE ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

Our God and God of Our Fathers:

We stand before Thee gratefully and humbly on this anniversary of our congregation's existence. We are thankful for so much. For the vision and courage of those intrepid men and women who foresaw the need for such a congregation as this and the possibility of its growth. For the devotion and strength of those whose leadership and labor through the years have brought the dream of our founders to abundant fulfillment. For the generous support of all who have provided the sinews and substance without which our achievement would not have been possible.

But we do not boast of our accomplishment, Lord, God. We do not pretend that our strength or the power of our hand alone has brought us this success. It is Thy spirit which has inspired us and Thy great strength which has moved and sustained us. We pray that it may ever be so.

May we overcome whatever obstacles and discouragements obstruct the path upward toward Thee as the Goal of our lives. Like Aaron and Hur of old, who upheld the weary arms of Moses that the people of Israel might triumph, so may we the members of this congregation ever uphold the hearts and hands of all who lead and guide us.

Grateful for the accomplishment of the past, O Lord, we pray that in the future too we may continue to merit the success which can come only through Thy blessing. May the ties between Rabbi and people be deepened and strengthened. And may love unite us more firmly: the love of each other here; the love of our fellow-Jews everywhere; the love of all humanity; and above and beyond all that, O Lord, the deathless love of Thee.

RABBI ROLAND GITTELSONN

SabbatH MEDITATION

How good and comforting it is, O Lord, to gather in Thy house as the soft shadows of eventide lengthen gently over the earth. Another busy day has ended. As the light of this Sabbath Eve dwindle slowly into night, another week of toil dissolves into memory.

Now, it is good to sit in this sacred place, bound together in the security of family love. Now, our hearts are gladden by the spirit of Sabbath peace. Now, we are quieter within ourselves and more at peace with each other.

The familiar accents of Israel's worship and the prayerful tones of Israel's sacred melodies lift our souls above the noisy distractions and conflicts of the world around us. Here we have no fears. Here there is no dissension or strife. Here there is neither hurt nor defeat nor frustration. Here there is no need for the defenses of selfishness and pretense. Here we are ourselves. Here the better part of our nature is free to rise. Here we turn to each other with deeper love and turn to Thee with greater faith.

In this hour of Sabbath prayer and song, may each of us find renewed enthusiasm for the goodness of living — and may the spirit of Sabbath peace and serenity reign not only in Thy house, but also in every heart and every home.

AMEN.

RABBI ALVIN I. FINE

But if . . . thou shalt seek the Lord Thy God, thou shalt find Him, if thou seek Him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

Deuteronomy 4:27

O Lord:

Thou Who art spirit knowest that though we yearn upwards, yet do we often fail to lift up more than our voices; our thoughts and our emotions remain too tightly concerned only with ourselves.

In truth, we lament the materialism of our desires, the prayerlessness of our lives, the lack of aspiration, the want of Thee in our souls. Forgive us that our resolves to lead a higher life have so readily been broken. Forgive us that we have so readily forgiven ourselves. Forgive us that we do not even know how to repent. Teach us, fill us with the overwhelming realization that Thou art light and goodness and love, and that Thou art no farther than the pulse of our blood, the impulse of our mind, the hope of our spirit. That if only we tear away the marks of selfishness and pride, that in our humility we will find Thy glory. No one stands between Thee and me – but I.

O Lord, lead us out of the twilight in our souls into Thy light, that we may be children not of night but of day; that we may brighten our world with the reflected light of Thy countenance beaming through us on all mankind.

AMEN.

RABBI MORRISON DAVID BIAL

In Memory of ISADORE AND ANNE BERMAN

In Honor of Golden Anniversary of MR. AND MRS. JACOB BIAL

INTERDEPENDENCE

Almighty God, Eternal Spirit, we for whom Thou art the only hope of life acknowledge our need of Thee now.

By the skill of head and hand, man has shortened the distance between the homes of his fellows, till all on our globe are now neighbors.

Help us, O God, Joyful Spirit of Universal Love, to make this new closeness a blessing to us all. Help us to believe in our heart's core that none of us can know joy, safety, content, if others do not know hope.

By the skill of head and hand, man has brought forth such wealth of material goods as no other generation has known. Help us to know that none of us is safe in the enjoyment of our man-made wealth if all cannot have a share.

Almighty God, move us to put our whole trust in Thee and Thy all-powerful spirit of love. May we draw from Thee that faith in the human spirit which alone gives meaning to efforts for the common good. Inspire us with that universal faith in the might of goodness, which means wholeness and life for all human souls.

AMEN.

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER

WE PAUSE IN REVERENCE

Before the gift of life,
the wonder of each, in the chamber of his own thoughts,
quietly alone, yet conscious of the other;

Before the sense of a Presence within and among us,
in which, although we are separate, we are together,
in which, although we are many, we are one;

Before the wonder of eyes that perceive,
of hands that reach out to one another,
of hearts that feel and minds that think.

May we find the world to be sometimes so beautiful,
that we shall want it to be more so,
more often, for more people.

AMEN.

REV. JACOB TRAPP

*In Memory of LEWIS LYON
In Memory of JENNIE AND HARRY BEHRMAN*

MEMORIAL PRAYER
(for those lost through human strife)

O God, the Creator of life, to Whom the bereaved human heart turns for compassion and solace, to Thee we open our hearts, sorely stricken by the wanton destruction of life through man's own hand. With tender love we recall dear ones lost in the service of their country while striving selflessly and bravely to remove from us the evil which men have contrived. With crushed spirit we remember the countless innocent victims whose lives have been ruthlessly cut short by men who brazenly defy Thy laws of truth, justice and love.

Hearken, O merciful One, unto our fervent prayer and turn speedily the men of wickedness from their misguided course, so that peace may once more rule the courses of men. Remove the blindness wherewith lust for power has veiled their eyes and turned their hearts to stone, laying waste Thy precious gift of life. And as for us who still walk in this path of life, make us firm in our resolve to pursue righteousness and peace so that the sacrifice of these lost ones whom we reverently recall this day shall not have been in vain. May their souls be bound up in the bond of life eternal, O Heavenly Father, and may we be found worthy of being inscribed in Thy book of life and peace.

AMEN.

RABBI ALEXANDER GOODE
Lost in the sinking of the *Dorchester*

FOR THE FREEDOM OF MANKIND

The spirit of man has awakened and the soul of man has gone forth. Grant us the wisdom and the vision to comprehend the greatness of man's spirit, that suffers and endures so hugely for a goal beyond his own brief span. Grant us honor for our dead who died in the faith, honor for our living who work and strive for the faith, redemption and security for all captive lands and peoples. Grant us patience with the deluded and pity for the betrayed. And grant us the skill and the valor that shall cleanse the world of oppression and the old base doctrine that the strong must eat the weak because they are strong.

Yet most of all grant us brotherhood, not only for this day, but for all our years — a brotherhood not of words but of acts and deeds. We are all of us children of earth — grant us that simple knowledge. If our brothers are oppressed, then we are oppressed. If they hunger, we hunger. If their freedom is taken away, our freedom is not secure. Grant us a common faith that man shall know bread and peace — that he shall know justice and righteousness, freedom and security, equal opportunity and an equal chance to do his best, not only in our own lands, but throughout the world. And in that faith let us march toward the clean world our hand can make.

AMEN.

STEPHEN VINCENT BENET

Sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. ROBERT R. MAX

Sponsored by DREXEL HILL, LTD., PINE VIEW GARDENS, INC.

FOR PEACE AMONG THE NATIONS

O God, Who hast made in one image all the nations of men, to Thee we offer our prayer of peace.

Forgive us that in our day the nations have gone after strange gods, worshiping the State and offering human sacrifice to the god of War.

O God of love, unite in opposition to war all those who worship Thee throughout the world. Give us ever the higher courage to take our stand with Thy teachings. Remove from our hearts the very seeds of war, all enmity and selfishness, bigotry and strife. Give us humility and goodwill to every man, to every nation.

May the resounding words of Isaiah, Thy prophet of ancient days, ring loud in our ears and echo in our hearts, until all men shall know their truth:

"And He shall judge between the nations and shall decide for many peoples; And they shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

RABBI MORRISON DAVID BIAL

*In Memory of ROSE AND BERNARD BARUCH
In Memory of NATHAN AND MATTHEW B. TENKIN*

THE MUSIC OF HUMANITY

God of Love teach us to see in all men our brothers, and in all children our own. Teach us that none can be so far away in this world as not to be our neighbor, none so unlike us as not to be our kin. Thus may understanding and goodwill grow among us, toward our peace and Thy glory and the music of humanity made whole.

AMEN.

REV. JACOB TRAPP

O Holy and Eternal Spirit, bring to us in this, our worship, a deepened fidelity to all that we know is good, an unfaltering devotion to the true and just, a dedication to the removal from the earth of all that curses it with hate and greed and lust of power and dooms its peoples to despair and misery; and help us to resolve to build, no matter what our doubts and fears, that better world of love and peace and brotherhood which yet shall bring to human life the flowering of its ancient promise. Be with us, Thou who gavest us this hope, as in our toil and tears we try to bring the prophecy to glad fulfillment!

REV. A. POWELL DAVIES

PRAYER FOR MUSIC SERVICE

The prophet spoke:

Sing, O heaven, be joyful, O earth,
and break into singing, O mountains!

Isaiah 49:13

Nature is saturated with melody;
heaven and earth are full of song.

NAHMAN OF BRATZLAV

O Lord, we would turn our lives into paeans of praise unto Thee. We would unite in harmony with every other human being, to join with them in passionate chorus before Thee. Rank upon rank of singers, seized with the rhythm of life, suffused with the poetry of existence, partners in the composition of creation, we lift our hearts with our voices to express our thanksgiving. We are not just creatures of flesh and blood: we are the notes of a celestial symphony rendered through the ages; we are the instruments upon which the notes are played; we are the choristers and the musicians responding to the direction of the composer and conductor of the world, of Thee.

"All true melodies come from the source of sanctity." Every happy deed, every expression of love, every act of selfless sacrifice, of giving and sharing is a response to the chords of humanity and religion intermingled.

Teach us, O Lord, truly to respond with our whole being, to open ourselves to Thee and to Thy children so that we may be bearers of Thy melodies in a world that cries for Thy songs.

RABBI MORRISON DAVID BIAL

FOR LARGENESS OF SPIRIT

O Lord, please guard us from selfishness in our minds, in our actions, in our prayer. May we be guided in our thoughts and plans, through our daily lives and in our hoping, by the desire to be greater and finer human beings. Forgive us our pettiness and our undue concern with ourselves, for selfishness is a weakness not in accordance with Your commandments, and a failing unbecoming to us as Jews.

Let our prayer create a bond between us and our fellowman. O Lord, may we always be moved to pray for others and their welfare. May we be aware that the unselfish prayer motivated by sincere concern for our brothers is more valid in Your sight than any personal petition. When we work for the good of our neighbor we hope to come closer to Your ways.

Give us the desire to learn in word and in action to be conscious of our fellowman: to respect him at all times; to aid him when he is in difficulty; to try to understand him, his wants and his needs; yes, to love him.

TEMPLE SINAI OF SUMMIT YOUTH GROUP

LEARNING

As we resume our labors in the search for Thee, O Heav-
enly Father, we pause to glorify Thy name and to bless
Thee who are the source of all wisdom.

To our fathers didst Thou bountifully mete out of Thy wisdom — Thou didst admonish them to guard carefully Thy word. In their zeal to know Thee, they drank deeply of Thy spring of knowledge. As they journeyed from land to land, as they passed through the many generations, they enwrapped Thy precious gift in the years of their learning. Lovingly they bequeathed it to us. For that possession, and for Thy inspiration which impelled our fathers in their ceaseless study, we express our deep gratitude to Thee.

O, Lord, in these days, we have come to speak in Thy name too presumptuously. Grasping but a fleeting glimpse of our fathers' teachings, scarcely familiar with our heritage, we rashly give voice to Thine instructions. We beseech Thee, O our God, to restore within us our sages' thirst unquenchable for learning and knowledge, that we in turn, with sureness of mind, and sincerity of heart, may teach of Thee and Thy Torah.

AMEN.

RABBI ELY E. PILCHIK

A PRAYER FOR OUR TEACHERS

O Lord, our God — If our lips were filled with song and our tongues with words of constant praise, we would still be unable to thank Thee for the many blessings which Thou dost daily bestow upon us.

We sing Thy praise for the masters and teachers in Israel, for our educators who help us understand that the universe, which Thou hast given to man as a home, is founded on law and order, harmony and peace.

May Thy spirit ever inspire our teachers, poets and writers of songs so that they may help us wipe out the ugliness, strife, suffering and cruelty which mar the beauty and goodness of Thy universe.

Enable Thy servants to speak clearly and knowingly so that all men everywhere may learn to do Thy will with one accord.

Bless the endeavors of all who strive to bring knowledge and understanding into the world and into the hearts of men everywhere.

May our songs of praise ever be upon our lips.

AMEN.

RABBI ALBERT G. BAUM

INVOCATION FOR WOMEN'S GROUP

Eternal God, Supreme Creator:

Gathered in behalf of our people's cause and humanitarian ideals, we ask Thy blessings upon the work of our hands.

Grant us discernment and guidance in all our avenues of activity. Enable us to discharge our responsibilities diligently and faithfully, with sincerity of purpose accompanying our every deed. Bless our endeavors to bring a measure of salvation and rehabilitation to our brethren and sisters.

O keep our beloved country safe and secure, free from every enemy, from within and without. Inspire the citizens of this land of the free to fully appreciate the precious rights and privileges they have been destined to enjoy. Cause Thy precepts of brotherly love, loving-kindness, and tolerance to motivate their pattern of life. May their common objective ever be the endowment of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all the inhabitants of our land.

Strengthen us, together with lovers of freedom everywhere, to contribute our share in hastening the arrival of that long-awaited era when justice will flow like a mighty stream and universal peace shall be the everlasting inheritance of all Thy children.

AMEN.

RABBI LOUIS J. SWICHKOW

NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

O Lord, our God:

At this time of the New Year, we "remember the days of old, we consider the years of many generations." Thou art timeless and changeless. The years pass before Thee in rapid succession; sunrise and sunset, and they are gone.

But to us they are the measure of our lives, reminders of our impermanence, and goads to build our destinies on the Rock of the universe, on Thee.

At the approach of the New Year, we ask Thee to bless us, O Lord, with health, with goodness, with understanding. Help us to achieve comprehension of our purpose in life: to be Thy messengers on earth. Help us to be bearers of love in a world that cries for love.

May our labors be labors of aspiration and accomplishment. May our ideals be Thy Torah's standards of the dignity of every human being, of justice, of right, of mercy. Give us zeal to make our days of worth, that we may bring goodness into being in our homes and in our communities, so that the "hearts of Thy children may be gladdened by the work of our hands."

We pray that this New Year will be for us, for all mankind, a year of peace and fulfillment among men and nations.

AMEN.

RABBI MORRISON DAVID BIAL

PRAYER FOR DEDICATION OF HOSPITAL CHAPEL

From the beginning, Thou hast ordained that man made in Thy divine image might imitate Thy holy attributes of mercy and loving-kindness, so that we may be drawn closer to Thee. That where there is grief, we may solace the grief-stricken, where there is suffering we may relieve the sufferers, and where there is illness, dedicated men and women might join their forces to cure the sick.

In this godly impulse, Thy children have banded together to establish institutions where expert care is provided and where suffering is relieved. Glorious indeed is it to witness the offerings that men and women bring to make possible the establishment and maintenance of hospitals for the healing of the sick and the easing of pain.

And within these walls has there been set aside a room consecrated to prayer and meditation. Here questing spirits will come, O Lord, to speak their troubles and seek Thy guidance and comfort. Here parents will come to pray for a child, children to ask Thy strength for their parents, a spouse will offer a prayer of desperate need for a dearly beloved mate.

Within this room people who have learned the raw knife of pain and the desperation of waiting will sit in silence, their minds and spirits turned utterly unto Thee. And psalms of thanksgiving will spontaneously spring to the lips of many who have found answer to their prayers.

May the worship offered within this chapel bring comfort to the sorrowing, light to those who walk in darkness, and understanding to all troubled souls. May Thy spirit abide with us in this hour and with all who come here to seek Thee.

So we pray that they who enter this room will learn the truth of Thy ancient message: "Shalom, Shalom, I'ra-hok v'la-ka-rov u-re-fa-tim. Peace, Peace, to him that is near and to him that is afar, and I shall grant them healing, saith the Lord."

Bless, we ask Thee, O Lord, him who has donated this chapel, and all the citizens of our community who contribute to and serve this hospital. Bless the doctors and nurses and all those who labor for the good of the patients and bless, we pray Thee, the sick who here will find healing. Speed the coming of the time when all men shall acknowledge Thy sovereignty and will together build a world from which disease and strife will be removed.

AMEN.

So do we in God's name and in His sight dedicate this hospital chapel to His worship and the service of man.

RABBI MORRISON DAVID BIAL

INVOCATION FOR TEMPLE MEETING

O Lord:

We stand in hushed silence for a moment and turn our hearts inward to offer our thanks for Thy blessings and our prayer for the future.

Much have we received from Thee, O Lord, and we are grateful:

For our loved ones who are the center and meaning of our lives.

Our Temple which is the fulcrum of our religious lives and a source of hope and betterment for our community.

For the devoted men and women who have given of themselves freely and loyally to build a house of worship and fellowship dedicated to Thy service; who in the spirit of brotherhood and cooperation created this sanctuary as a beating heart to pulse forth its currents of faith, trust and love.

For all these we speak our gratitude and pray that we may be given ardor and strength so as to merit Thy continued blessing.

AMEN.

RABBI MORRISON DAVID BIAL

INVOCATION FOR UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

We are gathered here, O Lord, deeply conscious of Thy blessings upon us until this day. We pray that we may be worthy of them, now and in the future.

We cannot say why we have been chosen to lead lives of hope and abundance, while others struggle in poverty in dark lands; why we flourish in liberty, while others exist in fear and trembling. We do know that it is our obligation to our brothers and to our belief in Thy will to goodness that we do what we can for them.

Teach us, O Lord, fully to share our sympathies and our material goods with our fellow Jews who are in need and in danger. Help us to understand that as we have been amply blessed, we must help bring blessings to those who need our assistance.

Then we will demonstrate within our hearts and in Thy world the love of Thee and Thy children which is the source of our religious being and the measure of our spiritual stature.

AMEN.

RABBI MORRISON DAVID BIAL

*In Honor of Workers for the UNITED JEWISH APPEAL
In Memory of CLARA, 1945, Bergen-Belsen*

PRAYER FOR NATIONAL HOLIDAY

O Lord, our God, Creator and Judge of all Mankind:

To Thee we come with prayers of thanksgiving for the blessings Thou hast showered upon us. We call upon Thy great name and ask Thy benison upon our homes and families and all those we love. We thank Thee for the privilege of living in our glorious land of America, fountainhead of liberty and example of democracy to the nations of the world.

As we celebrate this historic day, we turn our hearts and our minds to Thee, O Lord, to recall Thy teachings of wisdom. Thus Thou hast spoken through Thy prophet, "Not by might and not by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord."

So we would bring Thy spirit into our homes, our places of work, our courts of law, understanding that as we live lives of peace and brotherhood, as we judge in equity and truthfulness, so we establish Thy reign upon earth.

May we preserve our traditions of justice for all men, tempered by mercy and guided by regard for the rights of all our citizens. Help us to dedicate ourselves to strive for liberty under law for all in our beloved country.

May we be worthy to continue the noble heritage of the founders of our nation, that Thy blessing may rest upon us and upon all Thy children.

AMEN.

RABBI MORRISON DAVID BIAL

PRAYER FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

O Lord:

We are grateful for the happiness and sense of achievement of this evening, when we bring our children to graduation.

We have much for which to be thankful, their health and welfare, the family love that enriches our whole existence, the sense of community that brings us together to work for the betterment of our fellows.

Grant, O Lord, unto these our children and Thy children, an awareness of their opportunities for growth and service.

May they see the beauties of this world, that their souls and minds may delight in the glories of nature, in music and poetry, in all arts which add meaning and grace to life.

May they sense the order of Thy universe, so that they may delve into the sciences, bringing new lights to shine, adding brightly to our knowledge.

May they seek to work for the betterment of mankind, as builders and creators, whether with the trained skill of architect, engineer, or social scientist, or the healing arts of physician and nurse.

Whatever their occupation in life may be, may they ever be aware of this great country of ours; of our determination to remain free and to help bring freedom to all men. Then as true Americans they will offer their strength and devotion to keep this a blessed land.

And may they, O Lord, remember ever that they are Thy children, children of One Father, to Whom all our prayers

must be turned. So will they recognize that all men are equal in Thy favor, no matter what their color or creed.

May our graduates and their families and their teachers continue to walk before Thee. And may the dreams that they dream, the visions that enthrall their eyes find fulfillment and fruition in Thee.

AMEN.

RABBI MORRISON DAVID BIAL

BENEDICTION FOR CHARITY MEETING

We offer our thanks, O Lord, for the achievement of this evening. Gathered in the spirit of brotherhood and dedication, we have learned of the needs that demand our caring. We have learned of men and women and children who exist in poverty, in distress, in despair; whose days are spent in lands of degradation; who need our help as they need the very air they breathe. And in seeking to rise to the measure of our responsibility, we have answered.

We trust that we may go forth from this meeting with a sense of Thy blessing.

For those who have given of themselves, we offer our thanks, O Lord. For those who labor to help make all of our community aware and responsive, we thank Thee. For the many blessings that are ours, for the opportunity to share them with our brethren, we thank Thee.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the guardian of hope.

AMEN.

RABBI MORRISON DAVID BIAL

MEETING INVOCATION

O Lord:

At this time of our assembly
do we ask Thy blessing on ourselves and on
our homes,
On our children
and our Temple
which we have dedicated to Thee and Thy service.

We know that the profoundest service is the dedication
of ourselves
to that which is noble and of deep spiritual worth.

So our congregation, an assembly joined to work for
our common good,
the benefit of our children,
our community and the welfare of our brothers
here and beyond the seas,
endeavors to move ever nearer to the realization
of Judaism and the Jewish life.

May we in our ardent labors
ever keep before us the idea of the brotherhood of Israel
as well as the Fatherhood of God.

May the import of our religion
ever be expressed concretely in our daily actions.
So before God and man
will our Temple and its members be considered a
blessing.

AMEN.

RABBI MORRISON DAVID BIAL

"Do not I fill heaven and earth?"

Jeremiah 23:24

Filled — with mercy and desiring to do good.
For this alone hast Thou created Thy world,
The heavens and the earth and all their hosts,
That have neither count nor number:
To reveal Thy divinity in the world,
That through Thy mercies we may merit
 to recognize Thee in this humble world.
For Thou art good and doest good to all,
And Thou desirest in Thy goodness to do good unto us,
To be revealed in the brightness of Thy glory,
Which is the greatest of all Thy benefits to us,
The essential and necessary goodness.

There is no other real good but this,
That all the benefits and all the wonders
Thou has performed for our fathers and us,
And which Thou now performest day by day,
All are really but signs of this greatest good:
That we may merit to know Thee.

Therefore have mercy upon us, O Lord of all,
And affix Thy faith in our hearts forever
That we may merit to see the brightness of Thy glory,
And help us in Thy mercies to pray before Thee
 with all our heart and soul.

RABBI NAHMAN OF BRATZLAV
translated by M. D. B.

CHILDREN'S PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS

Prayer is conversation with God.

JOSIPPON

9th or 10th Century

MORNING PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

Mo-deh a-ni l'fo-ne-cha, Me-lech hai v'kai-yom,
She he-che-zar-toh bi nish-ma-si b'hemloh,
Ra-boh eh-moo-na-seh-cho.

I give thanks unto Thee, O King, who liveth and endureth,
Who has mercifully restored my soul unto me;
Great is Thy faithfulness.

Heavenly Father, hear our prayer.

Keep us in Thy loving care.

Guide us through this busy day

In our work and in our play.

Keep us good and pure and true,

In everything we say or do.

Sh'ma Yisroel, Adonoy Elo-henu, Adonoy echod.

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

NIGHT PRAYER

Before in sleep I close my eyes,
To Thee, O God, my thoughts arise,
I thank Thee for Thy blessings, all,
Which come to us, Thy children small.

O keep me safe throughout the night

That I may see the morning light.

Bless O God all my dear ones and keep them in peace.

Sh'ma Yisroel, Adonoy Elo-henu, Adonoy echod.

Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

In peace will I lay me down and sleep;
For Thou, Lord, alone, makest me dwell in safety.

Psalms 4

CHILDREN'S MORNING PRAYER

I shall praise God
Who is Lord
And King over all,
For this new day
Which I see before me.

I thank God,
Who in His great love for me,
Helps my mind and body
To grow each day.

To be wise
Is to have faith in God,
His goodness is everywhere.
God is a blessing to all
Who follow in His ways.

"Prayers and Holidays for the Student"

DR. NORMAN SCHANIN

CHILDREN'S NIGHTTIME PRAYER

I shall praise God,
Who is Lord
And King over all,
For helping me to find rest
And sleep each night.
As I lie down in peace
And rise up again each morning,
I thank You, God,
My Lord and God of my fathers.

I praise God
During the day and in the night.
I praise God
As I lie down to sleep
And when I rise up in the morning.

I put all my trust in You, O God.
You will protect me;
O Lord, God of truth.

“Prayers and Holidays for the Student”
DR. NORMAN SCHANIN

IT IS NOT ENOUGH ONLY TO PRAY

Good God, for many things do we turn to Thee in prayer. It seems so easy to confide in Thee, to tell Thee our needs and to be glad with Thee in our happiness. Even as we pray, make us to know that it is not enough only to pray. The loveliest prayer is one which is answered, even before it is spoken; a something which we may do, showing our love for God. Before we ask Thee for help, it is better that we should try hard to do our task. And having asked Thee for help, not to hope to have our work done for us, but to go and do it with the added strength that our prayer has given us. No races can be won by the runner who never starts, but only wishes that he might win. No house can be built if we only draw pictures of it. Great God, Thou who canst do all things, teach us the clear meaning of our prayers. Make us see in them not excuses after we have done a wrong, but fingers pointing the way to do right. Let our prayers be no easy way out of hard tasks, no leaning on someone else, which will make us weak. Let our prayers be the quicker beat of our hearts, the more eager lifting of our hands, the sweeter smile of our lips, as we do the things that are pleasing to Thee, dear God.

No answer comes to those that pray
And idly stand,
And wait for stones to roll away
At God's command;
He will not break the binding cords
Upon us laid,
If we depend on pleading words
And will not aid.

RABBI DANIEL L. DAVIS

WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

When things go wrong it is hard to keep one's courage. Yet, when I turn to Thee, O God who sendeth all things for our good, I know that in Thee I will find strength and hope. Help me then, dear God, to see beyond the disappointment that has come to me, to be brave in spite of sorrow. Let failure not crush me, but only teach me the lesson of trying harder. I do not want to be weak and cowardly and afraid. With Thy help, loving Father, let me learn to face every hardship knowing that from it will go forth my nobler self. Give me the power to be the hero in Thy sight, winning hope, even when losing races, daring to try again even after a dozen defeats. Bless me, Great God, with the Faith in Thee that will give me faith in myself. Bless me with the strength that comes of Thee, that sadness touching it can only give it the added power to do greater things.

AMEN.

RABBI DANIEL L. DAVIS

A STUDENT'S PRAYER

O Lord:

May I learn Thy Torah of loving-kindness,
And may I learn that holiness
means bringing love to friends and fellow students,
Love of them and the love of Thee.

May I in reverence of Thee
Keep far from sin and wrongdoing,
That I may be a vehicle of grace
and loving-kindness.

Guide my tongue when I speak with my fellows
That my words may be filled with grace and beauty,
That my actions may be of goodness and help,
Before Thee and before my fellow man.

RABBI NAHMAN OF BRATZLAV
freely adapted by M. D. B.

THE FATHER AND THE MOTHER

The religion of a child depends on what its mother and its father are, and not on what they say. The inner and unconscious ideal which guides their life is precisely what touches the child; their words, their remonstrances, their punishments, their bursts of feeling even, are for him merely thunder and comedy; what they worship, this it is which his instinct divines and reflects.

The child sees what we are, behind what we wish to be. He is a magnifying mirror. This is why the first principle of education is: train yourself; and the first rule to follow if you wish to possess yourself of a child's will is: master your own.

HENRI FREDERIC AMIEL

ANALECTA OF PRAYER

Prayer is the service of the heart.

Talmud, Taanit 2a

Learn with all your heart, and with all your soul,
to know My ways,
to watch at the gates of My Torah.
Keep My Torah in your heart,
may the fear of Me be before your eyes;
guard your mouth from all sin,
purify and sanctify yourself from faults and transgressions,
and I will be with you in every place.

Talmud, Berachot 17a

Rab said: Whoever has it in his power to pray on behalf
of his neighbor, and fails to do so, is called a sinner.

Berachot 12b

The kind works of non-Jewish people remind God of
Israel's sin. If those who did not receive the Torah perform
deeds of kindness, how much the more should Israel, who
accepted the Torah!

Baba Batra 10a

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe,
who hast given of Thy wisdom to all flesh and blood.

Berachot 58a

Sponsored by ALBERT H. AND GERTRUDE BIERNAN

In Honor of DANIEL JACK BLUMENFELD

Sponsored by MR. AND MRS. PAUL CHERIN

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The masters of Jabneh were wont to say:
I am God's creature, and my fellow man is God's creature.
My work is in the city and his work is in the country.
I rise early to go to my work,
and he rises early to go to his work.
As he cannot excel in my work,
so do I not excel in his work.
And should you say, I do more, and he does less —
We have learned:
"The one more, the other less — if only his heart is directed
to heaven."

Berachot 17a

We know that praise does not profit Thee . . . yet the moral consciousness with which Thou hast endowed us dictates that we acknowledge Thy wondrous favors unto us by praise . . . according to our ability.

"Duties of the Heart"
BAHYA IBN PAKUDA

The command to give charity weighs as much as all the other commandments put together. . . . He who gives alms in secret is greater than Moses.

Baba Bathra 9b

Pray not for material prosperity: a partition rises when the material is introduced into the spiritual.

BAAL SHEM TOV

Lord, I thank Thee for the goodness of growth, I thank Thee for the slice of bread and the prayerful mood.

LEVI BEN AMITTAI

Had Israel gazed deep into the words of the Torah when it was given them,
no nation or kingdom could ever rule over them.
And what did it say to them?
Accept upon yourselves the yoke of the kingdom of heaven,
and subdue one another in the fear of heaven,
and deal with one another in charity.

SIFRE ON *Deuteronomy* 39:39

If God is not in your heart, you will not find Him in the whole universe either.

"Kneset Yisroel"

J. L. NEWMAN

If you come to the house of God, He will come to your house;

If you do not come to His house, He will not come to yours.

Sukkah 53a

Whenever there rises in man's heart a joyous thought, a feeling of happiness, a sense of love for His law, that moment is auspicious for prayer.

AARON SAMUEL KAIDANOVER
18th Century

Sponsored by MR. AND MRS. GEORGE BATEMAN

Sponsored by BEHRMAN HOUSE

Sponsored by MR. AND MRS. MARK BYRON

Sponsored by JEROME AND SYLVIA DREXLER

Let man ever be subtle in the fear of God,
giving a soft answer that turneth away wrath.
Let him increase the peace with his brothers, with his
relatives, and with all men,
even with the heathen in the market place,
that he may be beloved above and desired below,
and well received by all his fellow creatures.

Talmud, Berachot 17a

Include friend and foe in your petitions, for how can
one ask God for blessings which he does not want others
to have?

ORHOT TZADDIKIM
15th Century

I call heaven and earth to witness that whether a person
be Jew or Gentile, man or woman, manservant or maid-
servant, according to his acts does the Divine Spirit rest
upon him.

Tana d'be Eliyahu 207

Is this a service of the heart, when the body is in the
synagogue and the mind in the market?

“Amude Shesh”
EPHRAIM LENSZICZ, 1617

The Torah was given in public, for all to see, in the open.
For if it had been given in the land of Israel, Israel would
have said to the nations of the world, You have no
share in it;
therefore the Torah was given in the wilderness, in public,
for all to see, in the open,
and everyone who wishes to receive it, let him come and
receive it.

MECHILTA ON *Deuteronomy* 19:2

Rav Joseph said:

Ever let a man learn from the wise ways of his Creator.
For lo, the Holy One, blessed be He, left all the mountains
and hills, and settled His Presence on Mount Sinai,
and left all the goodly trees, and settled His Presence on
the thornbush.

Sotah 5a

Rav Hisda said, and some say Mar Ukba:

Of every man whose spirit is haughty, the Holy One,
blessed be He, says:

He and I cannot dwell together in the world.

Sotah 5a

God hears not those who nurse unjust enmity.

Didascalia 2:55

Sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Ellowitz

Sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Emmerglick

Sponsored by A FRIEND

Sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. David Gordon

It is written, "The Lord will bless thee in all the work of thy hands." Rabbi Jacob said: "One might think that He will bless us even if we are idle; therefore it says, 'in all the work of thy hands.' If a man works, he is blessed; if not, he is not blessed."

Midrash Tehillim 23:10

It is proper for you to know, my brother, that the aim of our devotion in prayer consists in naught save the soul's longing for God, humbling itself before Him, and extolling the Creator with praise and gratitude unto His name, and casting all burdens upon Him.

"Duties of the Heart"

BAHYA IBN PAKUDA

11th Century

Thou art, but the essence of Thy being baffles the wisest minds. Thou livest, but Thy life is beyond our ken. Thou art the mystery in which our thoughts weary themselves without end.

"Keter Malchut"

SOLOMON IBN GABIROL

11th Century

Our Rabbis taught: Four things need be done with vigor: namely, study of the Torah, good deeds, praying, and one's worldly occupation.

Berachot 32b

When man appears before the Throne of Judgment, the first question he is asked is not: "Have you believed in God" or "Have you prayed and observed the ritual?" The first question he is asked is: "Have you dealt honorably and faithfully in all your dealings with your fellow-man?"

Shabbat 31a

Why does Scripture say that the human race descended from a single person? To teach us that if one destroys a single life, it is as though he had caused a whole world to perish; and if a man saves a single soul, it is as though he had saved the whole world.

Mishnah, Sanhedrin 4:5

Rabbi Akiba used to say: Beloved is man, for he was created in the image of God; by an even greater love was he made conscious that he was created in God's image.

Pirke Avos 3:18

A man should always say: "The whole world was created for my sake." Therefore each man must do his share to improve it and to leave it a little better for his sojourn in it.

RABBI NAHMAN OF BRATZLAV

Sponsored by MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH GORDON

Sponsored by DR. AND MRS. ALBERT I. GOLDBERG

Sponsored by LUCILLE AND ALFRED KURZ

Sponsored by MR. AND MRS. JACOB LEVINE

It is not you alone that pray, or we, or those others: all things pray, and all things pour forth their souls. The heavens pray, the earth prays, every creature and every living thing. In all life, in every object, there is longing. Creation is itself but a longing, a kind of prayer to the Almighty.

What are the clouds, the rising and the setting of the sun, the soft radiance of the moon and the gentleness of the night? What are the flashes of the human mind and the storms of the human heart? They are all prayers — the outpouring of the boundless longing for God.

MICHA JOSEF BERDICHEVSKY

Two men carrying a load would not be able to carry it as well separately as together. Two men raising their voices are more apt to be heard than if they cry separately. So it is with prayer, when all folk, great and small, pray together.

"Sefer Hasidim"
RABBI JUDAH HAHASID
13th Century

Rabbi Johanan said in the name of Rabbi Jose ben Zimra:
If a man makes his petition depend on his own merit,
heaven makes it depend on the merit of others; and if he
makes it depend on the merit of others, heaven makes it
depend on his own merit.

Berachot 10b

The Holy One, blessed be He, says: If a man occupies himself with the study of Torah and with works of charity and prays with the congregation, I account it to him as if he had redeemed Me and My children from among the nations of the world.

Berachot 8a

Our Rabbis taught: When a man prays, he should direct his heart to heaven.

Berachot 31a

Our Rabbis taught: On seeing an elephant, an ape, or a longtailed ape, one says: Blessed is He who makes strange creatures. If one sees beautiful creatures and beautiful trees, he says: Blessed is He who has such in His world.

Berachot 58b

The main thing in worship is the feeling of oneness with God, the ecstasy with which one serves Him and studies Torah, the attitude which is free of selfish motivation.

BAAL SHIEM TOV

Sponsored by MR. AND MRS. IRVING MARKS AND DAUGHTER

Sponsored by MR. AND MRS. CHARLES MAYER

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How does a man find his Father who is in heaven?
He finds Him by good deeds, and study of the Torah.
And the Holy One, blessed be He, finds man
through love, through brotherhood, through respect,
through companionship, through truth, through peace,
through bending the knee, through humility,
through studious session, through commerce lessened,
through the service of the masters, through the discussion
of students,
through a good heart, through decency,
through No that is really No,
through Yes that is really Yes.

Seder Eliyahu Rabbah 23

"Keep silence and hear, O Israel; this day thou art become
a people unto the Lord thy God" (*Deuteronomy* 27:9).
But was the Torah given to Israel on this day?
For this day was at the end of the forty years in the
wilderness.
But — this is to teach you that every day the Torah is dear
to those who study it,
as on the day it was given from Mount Sinai.

Berachot 63b

Man is always in the presence of God, and God must
always be present to man.

MARTIN BUBER

Hard as the world is to explain with God, it is harder
yet without Him.

"Liberal Judaism"

CLAUDE G. MONTEFIORE

"Thou knowest best what is for my good. If I recite my wants, it is not to remind Thee of them, but also so that I may better understand how great is my dependence upon Thee. If, then, I ask Thee for the things that make not for my well-being, it is because I am ignorant; Thy choice is better than mine, and I submit myself to Thine unalterable decrees and Thy supreme direction."

"Duties of the Heart"
BAIHYA IBN PAKUDA

The world was created for the sake of those who are ashamed to do evil.

Tikkune Zohar, Intro. 12b

If there be quarreling among men, even God's anger does not frighten them.

Zohar

Failure to repent is much worse than sin. A man may have sinned for but a moment, but he may fail to repent of it moments without number.

RABBI BUNAM OF PZHYSIA

Sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. MILTON J. STERNFOLD

Sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. HYMAN TARMY

In Honor of

MR. AND MRS. B. ETTELMAN AND

MR. AND MRS. F. NEUBURGER

In Memory of MOLLIE DICKER

When the rabbis took leave from the school of Rabbi Ammi, they said to him: . . . May your heart meditate understanding, your mouth speak wisdom and your tongue indite song; may your eyelids look straight before you, may your eyes be enlightened by the light of the Torah and your lips utter knowledge, your reins rejoice in uprightness and your steps run to hear the words of the Ancient of days.

Berachot 17a

Rather a short prayer recited slowly and with devotion, than a long prayer recited hurriedly and without devotion.

"Sefer Hasidim"
13th Century

There is no not-holy, there is only that which has not yet been hallowed, which has not yet been redeemed to its holiness.

MARTIN BUBER
(interpreting Hasidism)

We know of some very religious people who came to doubt God when a great misfortune befell them, even though they themselves were to blame for it; but we have never yet seen anyone who lost his faith because an undeserved fortune fell to his lot.

"Buch der Sprüche und Bedenken"
ARTHUR SCHNITZLER

What is a short Tefillah? Rabbi Eliezer says: Do Thy will in heaven above and grant ease of spirit to them that fear Thee below and do that which is good in Thine eyes. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, who hearest prayer.

Berachot 29b

What is a short Tefillah? Others say: The needs of Thy people Israel are many and their wit is small. May it be Thy will, O Lord our God, to give to each one his sustenance and to each body what it lacks. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, who hearkenest unto prayer.

Berachot 29b

When man is at one, God is one.

Zohar

There is no room for God in him who is full of himself.

THE BAAL SHEM

In Memory of NATHAN DWIN
In Memory of Parents and Brothers of
MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH HALPERN
In Memory of LOUIS C. KARTCH
In Memory of FREDA AND MAX KERN

The three times of daily prayer are the fruit of his day and night, and the Sabbath is the fruit of the week, because it has been appointed to establish the connection with the Divine Spirit, and to serve God in joy, not in sadness, as has been explained before. All this stands in the same relation to the soul as food to the human body. Prayer is for his soul what nourishment is for his body.

"Kusari"

JUDAH HALEVI

12th Century

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining. I believe in love even when not feeling it. I believe in God even when He is silent.

Inscription on the walls of a cellar in Cologne where Jews hid from the Nazis.
Quoted by ZVI KOLITZ in "Tiger Beneath the Skin."

Salvation is attained not by subscription to metaphysical dogmas, but solely by love of God that fulfills itself in action. This is a cardinal truth in Judaism.

"Or Adonai"

CHASDAI CRESCAS

14th Century

He who hates a man is as if he hated God.

PESIKTA ZUTARTI BEHAALOTEKA

Prayer is a sort of Jacob's ladder, connecting earth and heaven. It brings heaven down to earth, and seeks to lift man's gaze upwards so as to bring him a heightened experience and ennable his being. Through prayer, even the most unlettered man finds peace and an inner harmony which restores the daily fragmentation of his soul.

RABBI BERNARD M. CASPER

When a man asks God for the provision of his material human needs, such as health, riches, and so on, he should have in mind that these will help him to serve his Creator . . . for his material goods are really God-given aids for the main aim which is the improvement of the soul.

JACOB EMDEN
17th Century

Rabbi Akiba said: "In the beginning, sin is like a thread of a spider's web; but in the end, it becomes like the cable of a ship."

Bereshit Rabbah 22:6

In proper devotion a man has his eyes downward and his heart upward.

Yevamot 105b

In Memory of C. DAVID KREPS

In Memory of BELLA AND AARON LEVY

In Memory of EMANUEL AND ETHEL LEVY

In Memory of MATILDA MEDNICOW

There are three Talmudic passages which indicate the three processes which can exempt one from sacrifice: *Menahot* 110 has it that study exempts one "from the requirement of offering sacrifices"; *Sanhedrin* 43 says that "humility is equal to all the sacrifices"; and *Berachot* 32 says that "prayer is dearer than all the sacrifices." Each calls for a sacrifice: study, of time; humility, of ego; prayer, of selfishness.

"The Eternal Fount"

HARRIS SELIG

He who prays should think of himself as if God's Presence was in front of him, as it is said: "I have set the Lord always before me."

Sanhedrin 22

An angry man is unfit to pray.

RABBI NAHMAN OF BRATZLAV

Not all tears come before the King. Sullen tears, and tears accompanying the petition for vengeance do not ascend on High, but tears of entreaty and penitence, and tears beseeching relief, cleave the very heavens, open the portals, and ascend to the King of Kings.

Zohar Hadash to Ruth 80a

Rabbi Nehemiah said: "If a man purpose to commit a sin, God does not reckon it to him till he has done it; but if he purpose to fulfill a command, then although he has had no opportunity to do it, God writes it down to him at once as if he had done it."

Midrash Tehillim 30

My son, be zealous in visiting the sick, for sympathy lightens pain. Urge the patient to return as a penitent to his Maker. Pray for him, and depart! Do not fatigue him by staying too long, for his malady is heavy enough already. Enter cheerfully, for his heart and eyes are on those who come in.

*The Testament of
ELEAZER BEN ISAAC haGadol*
11th Century

True worship is not a petition to God: it is a sermon to our own selves.

"Reform Advocate"
EMIL G. HIRSCH

To pray is not the same as to pray for.

"Liberal Judaism"
CLAUDE G. MONTEFIORE

In Memory of ANNA AND SAMUEL NEUMAN
In Memory of ERWIN E. RACHLIN
In Memory of ABRAHAM RATNER
In Memory of JACOB WOLDIN

He who is about to pray should learn from a common laborer, who sometimes takes a whole day to prepare for a job. A wood-cutter, who spends most of the day sharpening the saw and only the last hour cutting the wood, has earned his day's wage.

MENDEL OF KOTZK

For transgressions between man and God, the Day of Atonement effects atonement; but for transgressions between man and his fellow-man, Yom Kippur does not effect atonement unless he has previously appeased his fellow-man.

Mishnah, Yoma 8:9

Prayer without the heart is like a body without a spirit.

"Duties of the Heart"

BAHYA IBN PAKUDA

Prayer is acceptable only if the soul is offered with it.

AMMI BEN NATHAN

Taanit 8a

All things pray, and all things exhale their souls . . .
Creation is itself but a sweetness and a longing, a sort of
prayer to the Almighty, blessed be He.

"Meditations"

MICHA JOSEF BERDICHEVSKY

The aim of our worship is the purification, enlightenment,
and uplifting of our inner selves.

"Nineteen Letters"

SAMSON RAPHAEL HIRSCH

In prayer we open the gates . . . of our larger self . . .
God comes in to us and claims his own.

"Gentle Rain"

RABBI JACOB J. WEINSTEIN

Let those who do not know Hebrew learn the prayers in
their own vernacular, for prayer must be understood. If
the heart does not know what the lips utter, it is no prayer.

"Sefer Hasidim"

13th Century

In Memory of

MICHAEL ROZETT AND MR. AND MRS. B. H. FRUMKIN

In Memory of LOUIS SCHOFFMANN

In Memory of MAURICE WEISS

In Memory of MR. AND MRS. HERMAN WINTER

May it be Thy will to remove all barriers between Thee and us. . . . Endow us with the vision to see in everyone his good qualities and the disposition to overlook his defects. Then will our prayers raise us to ever higher levels, and bring us ever nearer to Thee.

ELIMELEK OF LIZHENSK
Hassidic Rabbi

Pray and pray again, and you may light upon the hour when your prayer will be answered.

Hiyya Rabba. Deut. Rabba 2:12

There was none greater in good deeds than Moses, yet he was answered only after prayer.

ELEAZAR HAKAPPAR
Berachot 32a

Lord of the universe, since both the besieged and the besiegers are Thy people, answer not, I pray Thee, the curses which they may pronounce against each other.

HONI HAME'AGGEL
Josephus, Antiquities 14:2.1

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